

GREAT WARFORD PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held

Wednesday 28th May, 2025 at 7:00p.m.

at Great Warford Baptist Chapel, Merrymans Lane, Great Warford.

Present Councillors B. Thompson (Chairman), N. Peacock, C. Rossington, J. Shasha,
E. Wood.

Members of the public (0).

Dr. E. M. Maddock – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor J. Macrae

Councillor L. Wildig

Cheshire East Ward Member: Cllr. H. Moss

DECISION (a) To note the above apologies for absence. (All in favour)

2. Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 15th May, 2024 had been previously circulated.

DECISION (a) That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 15th May, 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (All in favour)

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report for civic year 2024/25 – Councillor B. Thompson presented the following report:

Dr. Elizabeth Maddock – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer has continued to manage the administrative and financial processes, enabling the Council to be both effective and efficient. All this work is timely done and presented well, with the records of meetings reflecting a Clerk who is excelling.

We have retained a full complement of Councillors who are working together to represent the interests of the Parish, two of which are also representing Great Warford Residents Group. This ensures the two groups continue a strong liaison, especially for their Christmas and Mid-Summer events, together with traffic issues.

We do, however, need to hear more from our Residents to enable us to improve the effectiveness of the Council.

The work of the Council covers a broad range of subjects but has continued to be largely focussed on three main areas. 1. Road Safety and the Safety of our Roads. 2. The Planning Process specifically directed at New Builds, Home improvements and general enforcement issues and 3. Keeping pace with the vast amount of new or changing regulations; new government processes, consultations and notifications.

Road Safety and Safety of our Roads. We continue to struggle with speeding through the Parish and although we have had some tangible police support; reducing the speed of all vehicles must remain a high priority. Great Warford on any day on its narrow roads, can frequently have Farm Vehicles, Cyclists, Walkers (dog and otherwise) and speeding 'through traffic'. Not to mention resident's traffic!

The conditions of our roads and pavements continues to be poor and road markings are all but worn away.

We continue to highlight the areas of our roads and pavements needing improvement to Cheshire East Council, but the response to this process has proven to be ineffective!

We have also involved the local Police Force on speeding enforcement and road safety consultation with a small measure of success.

We remain committed to getting the speed watch team up and running again and along with a good number of the Great Warford Residents Group have undergone training by

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Cheshire Police at their Knutsford Station. This along with some investments in improved technology could see us addressing the speeding issues.

The Planning Process. We continue to deal with a steady stream of planning applications and use the great experience within the Parish Council to bring them to fair and reasoned solutions. It is worth noting that we continue to get submissions from applications retrospective to the completion of work, but more noteworthy is the rise in planning applications for housing on Green Belt.

Activity on the Mary Dendy Playing Fields appears to have increased with large numbers of Soccer players and supporter's cars 'descending' during week day evenings as well as weekends. It has become obvious that the parking space provided by Cheshire East is grossly inadequate causing a greater number of cars to be parked on grass verges and in the adjacent housing estate.

Their litter continues also to be an issue.

Correspondence. We have continuous correspondence on a wide range of topics, each needing understanding and consideration. We are grateful for Elizabeth Maddock for her diligence in keeping us informed and directed as to potential impacts and her wisdom on further actions.

Great Warford continues to be a good place to live and the Parish Council will strive to keep it so.

DECISION (a) To receive the report. (All in favour)

4. Public Forum: None.

DECISION (a) To note no issues were raised. (All in favour)

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9:07p.m.

Signed:..... Confirmation date: 16th July, 2025